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I-RoLE 2023

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF
RESEARCH ON LANGUAGE EDUCATION 2023

**EMBRACING CHANGE:
EMANCIPATING THE LANDSCAPE
OF RESEARCH IN LINGUISTIC,
LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

13 - 14 MARCH 2023

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A PLACE FOR POETS: AN ONLINE POETRY RECITATION SERIES

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ABSTRACT:

In many nations, learning literature has long been associated with the English language Syllabus. In Malaysia, literature is used as a tool and an actual language-learning method in the hopes that learners will develop the necessary language skills. The least popular among students is poetry, one of the genres in the component. According to T.S. Elliot, the ability of genuine poetry to communicate before being understood is a test. People with difficulties in communication may find it awkward to talk freely, thus, poems are one of the ways for them to express their emotions. Hence, this initiative serves as a forum for poets to share their poetry on social media. 17 respondents were employed in answering the 15-questions of the online market survey that explores their interest in poetry. Findings revealed that many of them agree, while the majority of them oppose having their original poetry shared on social media. One of the reasons is that people prefer to feel their emotions privately out of fear of judgement. However, through an alternative plan advertising a poster, a few people agreed for their poems to be published. It is hoped that this project will inspire students to learn poetry in an entertaining way by utilising the media. In addition, this project is also suggested as a potential future analysis of the stated conceptual framework. As a result, reading poetry out loud while remaining anonymous helps other ideas to be heard and understood.

Keywords: Poetry, ESL, social media.

1. INTRODUCTION

Poetry encourages people to write well, develop their language skills, stimulate their creativity, and most importantly help them to become more self-aware. In learning literature that favours creativity, practical skills often get overlooked as they is seen to be difficult (Azany, 2019). According to Abidin et al. (2020), the study of literature as a part of the English language curriculum is also taught to be able to give students a better and broader understanding of the role that education plays in stimulating critical thought and elevating emotional awareness, both of which contribute to the overall education of the student. Learning literature opens up another dimension in English learning and is seen as one of the most effective methods to teach English without actually teaching English. According to Keshavarzi (2012), through literature, English educators and teachers have been attracting ESL learners to learn the language beyond the restrictions of its grammatical rules and structures due to its relevance and purposeful learning. Poems provide a secure outlet for expressing displeasure, rage, and unfavourable thoughts. Poem writing gives one a sense of pride and accomplishment, which boosts one's confidence. There are different varieties of poetry in terms of sounds, rhyming pairs, connected speech, and intonation



patterns enhance phonological awareness, an important component of detecting and remembering print-to-sound links, in the development of proficient listening and speaking skills (Jackson, 2023). Last but not least, poetry helps in comprehending different perspectives. Those who learn and study poetry are more likely to respect and understand the viewpoints of people from around the world. This is a very significant education at a time of growing division because not only does it teach us the power of stating a lot in a few simple sentences, it also motivates us to think about how each word we use in our writing affects the reader individually.

1.1. Project Objective / Purpose

The main purpose of building an online platform is to encourage people on to write and produce creative poems, utilizing genuine emotions during the poem recitation. The concept of this online poetry recitation platform is to allow poets to challenge themselves by writing creatively based on their emotions and listeners to enjoy, appreciate and understand the poem's language proficiency better. Some people find it hard expressing their feelings, but through poetry they are able to use their own creativity to express their emotions. Additionally, they are able to learn and improve their mastery in English language in terms of vocabulary selection, speech and writing. The initial idea of establishing an online poetry recitation platform is to allow individuals to express their emotions and feelings freely in the most creative way.

1.2. Entrepreneurial Opportunities

The online poetry recitation platform is accessible for everyone on a global social media app called Tiktok. To learn more about how poetry truly emerges from people's souls and hearts, anyone interested is invited to look into the profile called "PoetsChamber!" that was made especially for this project. The poetry recitation series will be ongoing for a month. This includes three poems from each of the required themes: oneself, desire, and mother nature. Any other interested poets that would want their poems to be recited anonymously are welcome to send their poems to the google drive link provided on the profile. Moreover, this project could be used as research for educators. It can be utilised in the classroom to broaden the concept of learning literature by giving students a pleasant and engaging way to comprehend poetry.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Market Survey

The first stage in creating the platform for an online poetry recitation was an online survey. The intended respondents for the market research were provided with a google form, which is accessible to people of any age or gender. The goal of the survey was to accurately pinpoint the topics that the audience would be interested in for a poem to be written and read out on social media. The survey's findings are presented in the section under "Results and Discussions."

2.2 Promotion Poster

Ling et al., (2015) finds that communication media fatigue is a psychological concept which is the negative emotional response of the audience to social media activities. Consequently, some individuals worry about privacy disclosure thus generating anxiety in the process of participating in social media (Huang and Yuan, 2018). Based on the response received from the online survey, most of them do not agree for their poems to be posted on social media,

even though the recitation will be in an anonymous manner. Thus, in order for the potential poems to be accepted for the recitation, a poster was produced as a form of promotion. This helps in collecting potential poets that provide access to post their poems on social media.

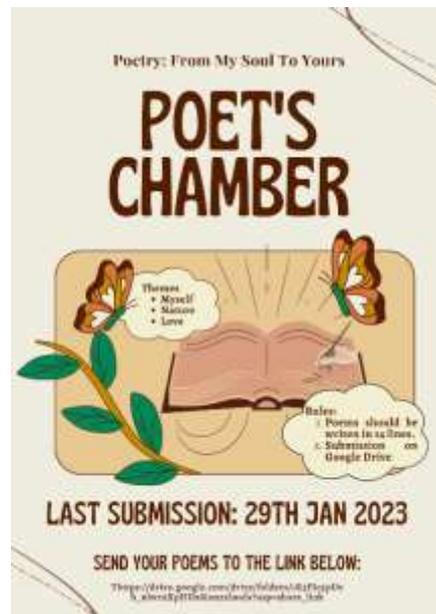


Image 1: Poetry Recitation E-Poster

In accordance with the poster, the submission deadline was given, the written poem's rules and regulations, and a link to the file's Google Drive site so that respondents can send their responses straight to the Google Drive document.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

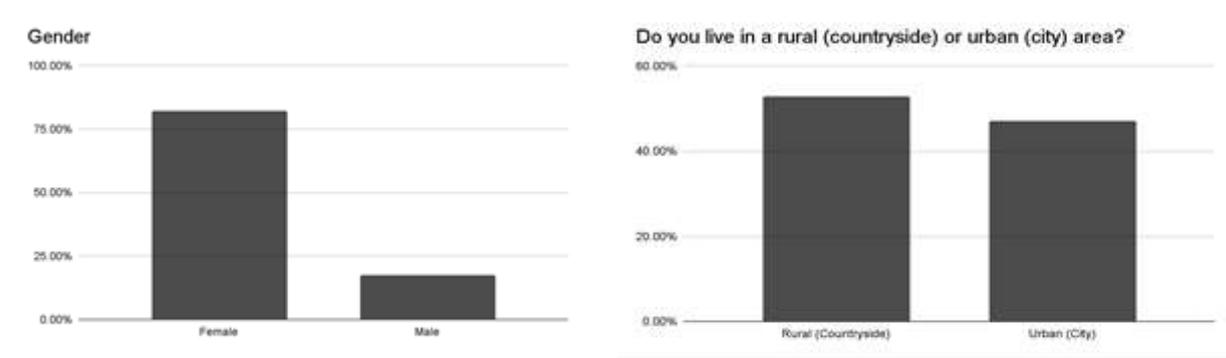


Figure 1 & 2: Results based on the market survey among respondent's gender and their residential.

Most respondents to the market survey are females and reside in rural areas, whereas half of the remaining respondents are males that live in metropolitan areas.

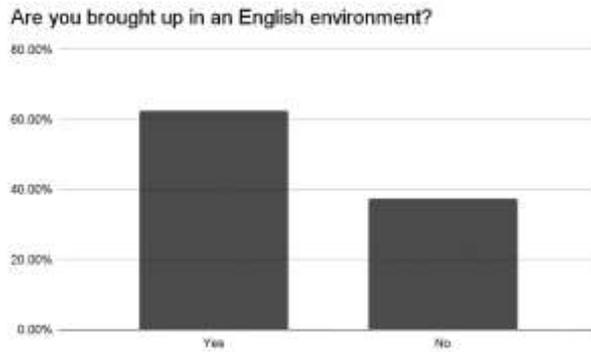


Figure 3: Respondents' background.

Less than half of the respondents were not raised in an English-speaking environment, but the majority were.

According to the survey that has been distributed among respondents, one of the sections focuses on the individual's interest toward poetry. This includes their enthusiasm for writing and reading poems, number of poems written, duration of time as well as their inspiration in writing poems.

Are you interested in poetry?
 17 responses

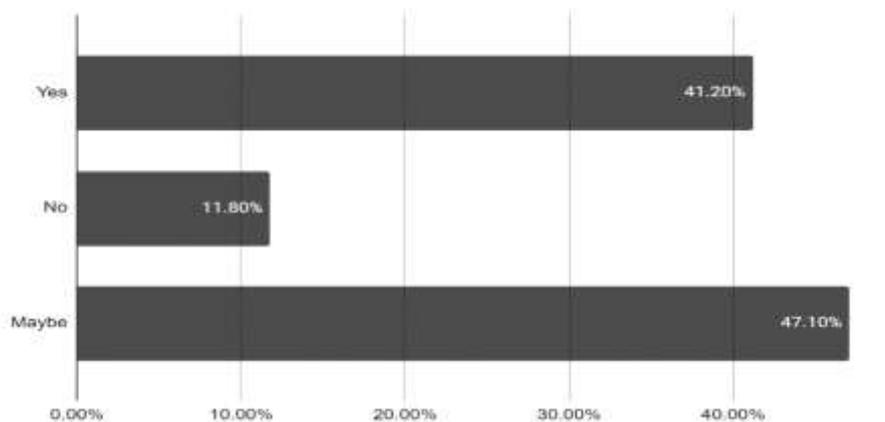


Figure 4: Respondents' interest in poetry.

One of the questions from the survey indicates respondents' interest in poetry. As shown in figure 4, although the majority of them have mixed feelings, many agree to be interested in poetry whether by reading or writing it. From the data, it can be concluded that doing this poetry recitation series will hopefully get the respondents to gain interest in poetry.

Have you ever written a poem?
 17 responses

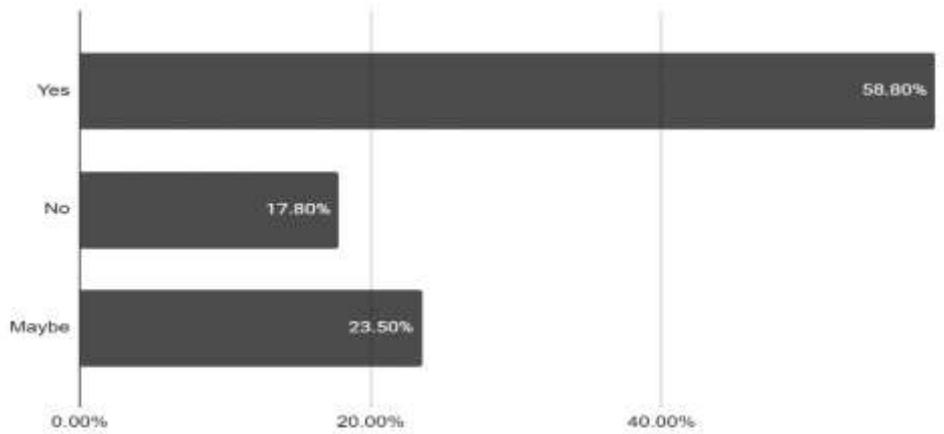


Figure 5: Respondents' experiences in writing poetry.

Other than that, based on figure 5, more than half of the respondents voted *yes* upon their experience writing a poem. This implies respondents' high abilities to apply their previous experiences in composing poems. This is important as the poems that they produced have certain standards, which is believed to be able to attract other potential poets to listen to during the online recitation.

What inspires you to write about poems?

17 responses

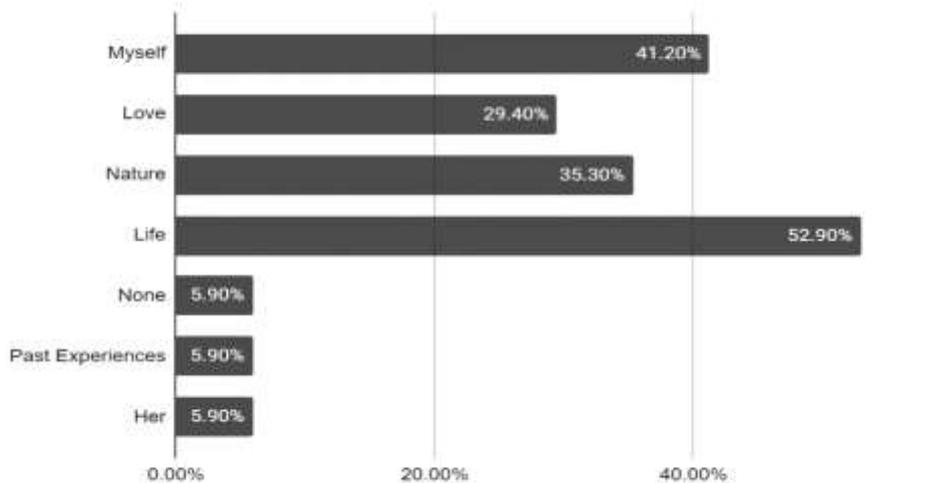


Figure 6: Respondents' inspirations in writing poems.

The majority of respondents to the final question in this section agree that, above all other sources of inspiration, writing poetry about life inspires them the most. In order to ascertain the subjects of the poems submitted by respondents, it was necessary to evaluate this data. Consequently, it has been determined that many people agree upon writing about their lives, themselves, love as well as nature.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the research, it can be concluded that:



4.1. Demographic

Based on the findings of the research, this section talks about the gender of respondents, their residential areas and their environment in growing up. This section is important due to the fact that a writer's demographic contributes to the use of a particular language and expressions that potential poets prefer.

4.2 Interest in writing poetry.

This section discusses individual's interest in poetry. It specifies on their experiences of writing a poem, amounts of poem written, time spent in writing poems, inspirations as well as their enjoyment. It can be concluded that although many respondents have written poems, they still have mixed feelings to be interested in writing poems. It can be seen by how many times a poem is written and how long it takes to write one poem. Most people prefer to talk about their life, themselves and nature as inspiration.

4.3 Knowledge in writing poetry.

This section examines the conclusions of the study in light of a poet's knowledge when writing poetry. Most people are aware of the basic elements of the literary devices that are needed when writing a good poetry such as the rhythm, stanzas, metaphor and others. However, even though inserting these elements are important, some do not agree and that tend to write out of fun and pure emotions which are proven to be more special and interesting to readers. This can be concluded that individuals are more creative when given the freedom to write, by the things that inspires them without any in detailed rules.

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